MARVEL

EWING
COELLO
D'ARMATA

VENOM WAR

4 OF FIVE

RATED T+

"John's art made the most fantastical situations feel grounded and real. His work had a uniquely cinematic quality to it, and we strive to bring to the screen what he masterfully accomplished on the page: characters that, even as they're pulled into extraordinary situations, still seem human and believable. He was a wonderful artist and storyteller, collaborator and friend to so many of our people here at Marvel."

– Kevin Feige
PRESIDENT, MARVEL STUDIOS

"John is one of the defining creative voices of his generation, whose work will be celebrated for years to come. His artistic and design skills were unparalleled, and he moved into otherworldly when you took in his ability to tell a story visually. With all that being said, he was simply a great guy who enjoyed a great meal and a quiet conversation. I will miss John dearly, and I consider myself lucky to have been his friend."

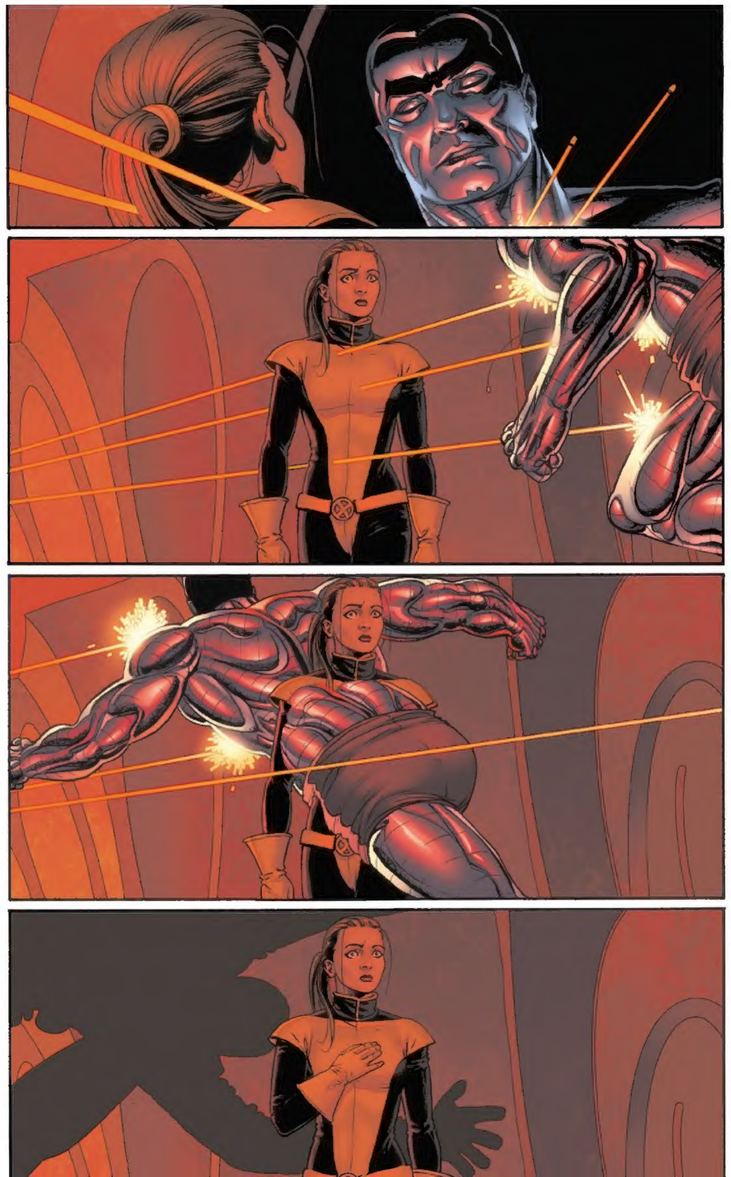
– Dan Buckley
PRESIDENT, MARVEL COMICS & FRANCHISE

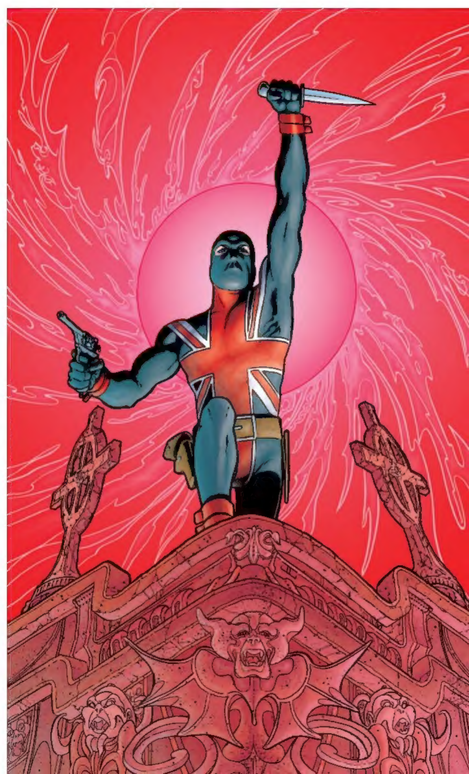
"John approached his art in the same way he did everything in life: fearlessly. It's what made him so good at what he did. From the soft touch needed on certain lines, to the bold bravado of the shots he often chose, John made every page better by putting 100% of himself into every composition and character. His comics truly embody his spirit, and while he's left us far too early, his legacy will live forever in these stories that he loved telling."

– C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF, MARVEL COMICS

JOHN CASSADAY

PENCILER · INKER · ARTIST · FRIEND





THE GRAND GARDEN ARENA.
WHERE THE ACTION IS.

AH! SPARE MASK, I LOVE YA.

NONE OF THESE CAMERAS CAUGHT MY FACE, RIGHT?

BEDLAM? WHAT DO YOU THINK? DID THEY GET MY GOOD SIDE?

THEY WILL...

...WHEN I TEAR IT OFF AND THROW IT AT THEM!

SO! HERE'S THE ISSUE I HAVE WITH THAT.

NORMALLY? I WOULD LOVE TO HURRICANRANA YOUR BIG DUMB FACE INTO THE MAT FOR THE FOLKS AT HOME.

BUT I JUST GOT THE CALL.*

*AS SEEN IN VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #3.

SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE. AND, YEAH, EVERYONE'S IN TROUBLE--BUT THIS IS SOMEONE I'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS FIGHT, MAN.

SO, UH...

...CAN YOU BE COOL?

NO!

SLAM

OY! LIKE TALKING TO A WALL WITH THIS GUY.

LOOK-- I TRIED BEING A REASONABLE CUSTOMER HERE, OKAY?

BUT NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO CALL IN YOUR SUPERVISOR.

HEY, BEDLAM!

HRRGH...?

TEAMWORK--

I CAN FEEL THEM.

TWO MINDS, LINKED TO MINE. TWO HEARTS, BEATING IN PERFECT SYNCOPATION.

--MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

TWO HOSTS... UTTERLY IN SYNC.

WE ARE, AT LAST...

WHAM

...A PERFECT FAMILY.

WOWZA.

VENOM WAR

PART 4
EVERY MAN HAS A PRICE

EDDIE BROCK and his son, **DYLAN,** have waged war over which of them should remain bonded to the **VENOM** symbiote, in an effort to prevent their dystopian futures. While battling it out with **MERIDIUS'** zombiotes, Venom chose to return to its original host: **PETER PARKER, A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.**

But just as the war was on the precipice of a more peaceful end, Dylan, bonded with **FLEXO** and **SLEEPER,** found himself caught with **RASCAL** in a proxy war between Doom and Kang the Conqueror. Dylan lost control of Flexo and was forced to shoot his father.

Venom, realizing he could save both Brocks from death, detached from Spider-Man, linking Eddie and Dylan's minds together. For the very first time, they are Venom. But will that be enough to stop Meridius and **CARNAGE?**

TEAM EDDIE

EDDIE BROCK

BEDLAM

TEAM DYLAN

DYLAN BROCK

TOXIN/
BREN WATERS

UNDECLARED

SPIDER-MAN/
PETER PARKER

THE VENOM
SYMBIOTE

MERIDIUS

CARNAGE

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A PERFECT FAMILY-- ASIDE FROM THE *RAGE-DRUNK UNCLE.*

BROCK! Y-YOU'RE DEAD, BROCK!

WHUDD

WHICH BROCK'S THAT?

EDDIE'S HEART BEATS AS NO *NORMAL* HUMAN'S CAN--A STEADY PURR, A *DARK ENGINE.*

'CAUSE THERE'RE A *LOT* OF BROCKS HERE.

DYLAN'S HEART BEATS WITH ALL THE POWER OF *YOUTH.* A *DRUM SOLO.*

INCLUDING *YOU.*

MAYBE *YOU'RE* DEAD, OLD MAN.

I AM SO *PROUD* OF HIM.

SHHH

WE ARE SO PROUD OF HIM.

HIS CODEX BLADE STILL HAS THE POWER TO SEPARATE SYMBIOTES FROM THE KING IN BLACK'S HIVE.

USING IT ON BEDLAM RENDERS HIS OWN SUBSTANCE BEYOND HIS CONTROL...

...BUT STILL HE RAGES ON.

THIS WON'T STOP ME!

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER, MAN.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU...

OKAY, DAD.

LET ME DO IT.

BUT WHAT WOULD THAT DO TO US?

ARRRGGH!

FOR ALL HIS MADNESS, BEDLAM IS AN EDDIE BROCK THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

DIE! DIE!

WE CANNOT SIMPLY PUT HIM DOWN LIKE A DOG...

...BUT LUCKILY, WE DON'T HAVE TO.

D-GLURK!

THWIP

SORRY. AM I INTERRUPTING?

DYLAN AND EDDIE FEEL MY JOY AND ACCEPT IT.

FLASH THOMPSON, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, IS THE HOST WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A *HERO.* A SOLDIER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST *DARKNESS.*

HE DIED, ONLY TO BE REBORN THROUGH THE ANTI-VENOM-- THE HEALING FORCE TO OUR DESTRUCTIVE ONE.

AGAINST A SYMBIOTE WITH NO HOST...

D-DIE...

THWIP

THWIP

...ANTI-VENOM IS *RUTHLESSLY* EFFECTIVE.

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

WITHIN MOMENTS, BEDLAM IS RENDERED INERT.

FLASH. GOOD TO SEE YOU, MAN.

AND I DO WANNA CATCH UP PROPERLY-- BUT I'M NEEDED OUT THERE. LIKE, RIGHT NOW.

TWIP!

SPARE A CUP OF VENOM FOR THE ROAD, GUYS?

UH... I'M NOT COMFORTABLE SPLITTING THE SYMBIOTE OVER A LONG DISTANCE...

THAT'S FINE. BUT I GOTTA GET MOVING.

FLASH-- YOU GOT THINGS HERE, RIGHT?

RIGHT, BUT--SPIDEY, WAIT--

DAMN. HE'S ALREADY GONE.

I WAS GOING TO WARN HIM ABOUT THE ZOMBIOTES--THERE'RE A LOT MORE OF THEM OUT THERE THAN THERE WERE.

A LOT MORE OF WHAT...?

YEAH-- BACK UP, FLASH. ZOMBIOTES?

WHAT THE HELL ARE ZOMBIOTES?

KROOM

THOSE ARE ZOMBIOTES--

--AND THEY JUST BROKE IN!

CORPSES WRAPPED IN MINDLESS SYMBIOTES. DEAD HOSTS IN DEAD KLYNTARS...BUT MOBILE.

HOLY-- AAAAHH!

HUNGRY.

AND LACED WITH A VERSION OF THE K-CHEMICAL--TO FREE THEM FROM THE HIVE OF ALL KINGS IN BLACK BUT ONE.

OUT OF THE THREE OF US, ONLY I HAVE SEEN ANYTHING EVEN CLOSE TO THIS...BUT THROUGH OUR BOND...

...EDDIE AND DYLAN KNOW ALL I KNOW.

LEE PRICE...?

WHO?

A SCUMBAG WHO GOT HOLD OF THE SYMBIOTE. HE'S *DEAD* NOW--OR HE WAS.

A *SPACE VAMPIRE* TURNED HIM INTO A *ZOMBIE FAMILIAR*...AND THEN *MERIDIUS* GOT HIS GOOEY HANDS ON THE CREEP.*

*IN *VENOM* #33-34.

I FIGURE HE'S THE *TEMPLATE* FOR THESE THINGS.

IT REALLY IS *OLD HOME WEEK* FOR *VENOM* HOSTS...

TELL FLASH THE *REST,* DAD. TELL HIM ABOUT *MERIDIUS.*

DYLAN'S ANGER FLASHES. INSIDE THE BOND, THERE ARE *NO MORE SECRETS.*

DYLAN KNOWS WHAT MERIDIUS TOLD *ME*... ABOUT THE *ABSENT THRONE*...

MERIDIUS *IS* THE ABSENT THRONE-- THE ORGANIZATION THAT'S *HUNTED* ME FROM THE *START.* THAT *KILLED* YOU IN *FRONT* OF ME.

AND ON TOP OF *THAT*...

...AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT *EDDIE* KNOWS TOO.

...MERIDIUS IS *YOU,* DAD.

OF *COURSE* HE'S YOU.

ALCHEMAX HQ.
WHERE PLANS ARE MADE.

EDDIE BROCK...

THAT'S YOUR NAME, MERIDIUS. DON'T WEAR IT OUT.

MY ZOMBIOTES HAVE REACHED THE **GRAND GARDEN ARENA**--AND VENOM WAS WAITING. **BOTH** VENOMS.

THE SYMBIOTE'S LEARNED TO BOND WITH **MORE THAN ONE HOST**... WHICH IS WHAT I WAS ALWAYS **PUSHING** IT TOWARD.

SO IT'S IMPERATIVE I GET IT BACK **NOW**...BUT THERE'S A **COMPLICATION.** A WILD CARD--**FLASH THOMPSON.**

IT SEEMS THOSE WITH **ANTI-VENOM** CAN **DISRUPT** THE ZOMBIOTES...

SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED A WILD CARD OF YOUR OWN.

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE THE VERY THING. **ALL-BLOOD, THE NECRO-SPEAR.**

GO ON, EDDIE.

TAKE IT.

NICE **TRY,** CARNAGE.

I'M NOT **THAT** DESPERATE.

NOT YET...

MISTRUST IS BREWING.

THE BOND IS FRACTURING. PSYCHIC WOUNDS REOPENING.

ALL OF THIS IS YOU! FROM THE BEGINNING!

ALL OF IT!

DYLAN'S RAGE... EDDIE'S GUILT IN THE FACE OF IT...

TWO HOSTS ARE ALREADY DIFFICULT TO BOND WITH AT ONCE. IT IS ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP MY CONSCIOUSNESS FROM SPLITTING APART.

RRRAAAGGH!

AND THE ZOMBIOTES KEEP COMING. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL...

...WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A MISTAKE.

DYLAN, NO!

DON'T DO IT!

THWAP!

WHAT?

FLASH, THEY'RE ZOMBIES--

THEY'RE HOSTAGES.

THE COMMENTATORS WERE TURNED ALMOST INSTANTLY.

BUT THEY'RE NOT DEAD...

...WHICH DOESN'T MAKE THIS EASIER.

TOXIN--TAKE SAWBONES! I GOT CRUSHER!

FLASH--THESE PEOPLE CAN BE SAVED, RIGHT?

THWB

THE LIVE ONES CAN. THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.

THE BAD NEWS...

...IS THEY'RE A LOT TOUGHER THAN THE DEAD ONES!

AWK!

REVERSAL!

THEY'RE FAST TOO.

EVEN MINDLESS, THESE THINGS KNOW HOW TO FIGHT...

...

THEY CAN FIGHT US.

BUT THEY CAN'T FIGHT MERIDIUS.

AND DAD *IS* MERIDIUS...

DYLAN, I'M *SORRY.* I'M SORRY FOR EVERYTHING I DID TO MAKE HIM *POSSIBLE.* BUT HE'S JUST A-- A *WALKING WHAT-IF.*

I'M *NOT* HIM. I'M NOT *GOING* TO BE HIM.

I HAVE *LITERALLY* MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH *NOT* TO BECOME *THAT MONSTER--*

I *GET* IT, DAD.

BUT MAYBE YOU *NEED* TO BE A LITTLE BIT HIM RIGHT NOW. YOU'RE *BOTH* KINGS IN BLACK... BUT *HE* CONTROLS THE *ZOMBIOTES.*

SO WHAT CAN *YOU* CONTROL?

AN *IDEA* FORMS IN DYLAN'S MIND. IT PASSES TO US *ALL.*

BUT FOR IT TO *WORK*...THIS BOND *CANNOT SURVIVE.*

BECAUSE IF I STAY WITH EDDIE, *I* MAY NOT SURVIVE.

FLASH?

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO *TRUST* ME...

I CAME HERE TO *FINISH* THIS, EDDIE.

IF IT STOPS THE *ZOMBIOTES--* DO IT.

FAIR WARNING, THEN.

THIS IS GONNA HURT.

AAHHH--

THE FIRST ITERATION OF ANTI-VENOM WAS FORMED OF MY RESIDUE--AND EDDIE'S WHITE BLOOD CELLS.

EVEN LATER ANTI-VENOMS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY PART OF EDDIE'S BODY. AND AS KING IN BLACK, WHAT BELONGS TO EDDIE IS UNDER HIS CONTROL--SYMBIOTE OR FLESH.

EVEN SO, THERE'S SOME FLASH THOMPSON DNA CLINGING.

AND FLASH'S SOUL, OF COURSE.

MY TREAT.

THEN EDDIE BEGINS THE REAL WORK.

BUT WITH THE HEALING POWER OF THE ANTI-VENOM...WORKING FROM FLASH'S SELF-IMAGE...

...ONE CAN CONTAIN AND ISOLATE THE OTHER.

HUMAN. I'M HUMAN.

I'M ALIVE...

IF I WAS STILL CONNECTED TO EDDIE, THIS MIGHT DESTROY ME.

BUT DYLAN--THE CODEX--IS NOT PART OF THE KING IN BLACK'S HIVE AND CAN REMOVE SYMBIOTES FROM IT. HIS PROTECTION EXTENDS TO ME... TO SLEEPER, TO TOXIN...

...BUT ALL SYMBIOTES STILL UNDER THE KING IN BLACK'S RULE ARE NOW TOUCHED BY ANTI-VENOM.

ONE BY ONE, IT SEEKS THEM OUT... A PSYCHIC HEALING WAVE, RADIATING OUTWARD...

...AND WHERE IT TOUCHES, IT CHANGES.

FREEING THE LIVING...

...LETTING THE DEAD REST.

AND YET I AM WARY. MERIDIUS WAS THE ABSENT THRONE, MASTER OF THE GARDEN OF TIME. HE HAD PLANS UPON PLANS WITHIN PLANS.

DID HE PLAN EVEN FOR *THIS*...?

NO!

BROCK'S GOT THE ANTI-VENOM AND HE'S **KINGBLOCKING** ME WITH IT! GIVEN TIME, HE'LL FREE **ALL** THE ZOMBIOTES--UNDO **EVERYTHING!**

DAMN IT, I WAS SO **CLOSE...**

SUCH A **SHAME**. IF ONLY THERE WAS **SOME-THING** YOU COULD DO TO--

SHUT UP AND GIVE ME THE SPEAR.

BUT I HAD A WHOLE **SPEECH** READY!

ABOUT **RAW POWER**...AND **MURDEROUS DESIRE**...

YES, YES. I GET THE **GIST,** YOU BARGAIN-BASEMENT MEPHISTOPHELES.

IT'LL ALL END IN TEARS.

YOU THINK I HAVEN'T **ALREADY** LOST MY SOUL? YOU THINK I HAVEN'T WADED THROUGH **OCEANS OF BLOOD?**

I KNOW I'VE **FALLEN,** CARNAGE. BUT WITH **THIS...**

"...I CAN BRING HEAVEN DOWN WITH ME!"

EVERYTHING *TWISTS*. OUR STOMACH *DROPS* WITH THE SICK INVERSION OF WHAT WE THOUGHT WE KNEW.

LIKE FETID, ROTTEN *BLOOD* POURED INTO THE MILK...

HRRKK--

AAAH!

...THE HEALING WAVE BECOMES A *CARRIER WAVE*. DRAWING SOMETHING *IN*--BACK TO THE *SOURCE*.

THE ANTI-VENOM *PERVERTED* BY THE TOUCH OF SOME-THING FORGED FROM *DEEP MAGIC* AND *DEEPER EVIL*.

SOMETHING *RED*.

DYLAN UNDERSTANDS INSTINCTIVELY.

CARNAGE! IT'S *CARNAGE!*

DAD, YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT IT--

FIGHT...?

YES. FIGHT.

FIGHT EVERY-BODY.

AAARRGH--

THE INFECTION SPREADS FAST.

A DARK ALCHEMICAL MIX OF BLACK, WHITE AND BLOOD. POISON IN THE HEART OF THE HIVE.

IF THIS CORRUPTION TAKES HOLD FULLY, IT COULD END UNIVERSES...

DAD, STOP! PLEASE!

YOU HAVE TO STOP!

...AND TIME IS ALMOST UP.

...

I'M SORRY, DAD.

THE MOMENT IS UPON US--A WEIGHT OF DESTINY PINNING US DOWN.

I'M SO SORRY.

THIS WAS ALWAYS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

THE VENOM WAR COULD ONLY END...

...WITH THE *DEATH* OF THE KING IN BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM WAR

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***-- I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM**. BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM #39

VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #4

VENOM WAR #5

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1~~

~~08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM 37~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM 38~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1~~

11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4

11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4

11/13/24 VENOM 39

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

KRROOMM

ANGELS AND MINISTERS OF GRACE PRESERVE US! VENOM HORSE IS LOOSE IN THE BALL PIT!

ARRGH!

AAIIEEE!

GUMPH!

MY CHILD!

WHY DO WE DRIVE ON A PARKWAY AND PARK ON A DRIVEWAY?

I'M VENOM HORSE!

PLEASE, VENOM HORSE, DON'T HURT 'EM!